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Communications

April 19, 2017

Katie Kath to Share Insights with Pre-Service Teachers, Cleveland County Second-Graders

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – A well-known children's book illustrator will visit the campus of Gardner-Webb University to share insights with education majors, current teachers, and second-grade students in Cleveland County on April 27-28.

Katie Kath has illustrated several children's and middle-grades books including the updated edition of the Dr. Seuss classic "Come Over to My House." Her latest book, "My Kicks," written by Susan Verde, was released on April 11. During her time at Gardner-Webb on April 27, Kath will share insights with pre-service teachers and teachers from Cleveland County Schools. On April 28, she will talk to kids from the Cleveland County School system about potential careers in the arts.

"By the underrepresentation of the arts in schools, kids are seeing a career in the arts less and less as a viable job option," Kath explained. "I will talk to the kids about the illustration process and help them connect ideas about possible careers in the arts."

Kath graduated from Savannah College of Art and Design (Savannah, Ga.) with a Master of Fine Arts in Illustration. In 2013, she was one of two people in the nation to win a Society of Children's Books Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) Student Illustrator Scholarship award. She primarily works in watercolor and ink, which is sometimes accompanied by collage.

She will share thoughts with pre-service teachers from Gardner-Webb and Cleveland Community College as well as current teachers from Cleveland County Schools. "The talk for the college-age kids and current teachers is entitled, 'The Power of Picture: How Illustrations in Books Add Richness to Reading,'" she offered. "Pictures in books can tell a story within a story, and teachers can then use these pictures as reading comprehension tools for younger children."

Kath also plans to share about the process in which children's book illustrations are created. "I will discuss the lessons I've learned about the power of valuable criticism and how it can allow you to become the best person you can be," she said.

The event is co-sponsored by the GWU School of Education, the Cleveland Community College Educational Foundation, and the Cleveland County Partnership for Children. "The School of Education is always happy to collaborate with Cleveland County Schools in providing unique educational opportunities for our local schools," said Dr. Jason Parker, Associate Dean for the School of Education. "We are excited about Katie's visit and are looking forward to the insight she will share with students."

A launch event for Kath's latest book will take place at Malaprop's Bookstore & Cafe in Asheville, N.C., on May 13 at 11 a.m. A book signing, drawing demo, craft, and story time reading is planned. To learn more, visit ktkath.com.

Located in the North Carolina foothills, Gardner-Webb University is a private, Christian, liberal arts university that prepares students to become critical thinkers, effective leaders and compassionate servants in the global community. Emphasizing a strong student-centered experience and rigorous academics, Gardner-Webb ignites learning and service opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students. Ignite your future at Gardner-Webb.edu.